

Message Text

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62
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7686
SECDEF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 3725

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (JAMES R. SCHLESINGER), CA
SUBJ: SECDEF'S OTTAWA VISIT SEPTEMBER 15/16

WITH REFERENCE TO OTTAWA JOURNAL ARTICLE REPORTED REFTEL,
PRIMIN TRUDEAU'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER IVAN HEAD TOLD
POLCOUNSELOR SEPTEMBER 24 THAT VIEWS EXPRESSED IN EDITORIAL
BY NO MEANS REPRESENT THE VIEWS WITHIN THE GOC, LEAST OF ALL
THOSE OF THE PRIME MINISTER. ON THE CONTRARY, SECDEF HAD BEEN
ASKED BY GOC TO COME TO OTTAWA SPECIFICALLY TO EXPRESS HIS
THINKING ON CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION TO COMMON DEFENSE, A MATTER
OF LEGITIMATE CONCERN TO ALLIANCE LEADER, AND MR. SCHLESINGER
HAD DONE SO WITH GREAT TACT AND LOGIC. HEAD SAID SCHLESINGER
HAD BEEN SO PERSUASIVE THAT SOME TOP OFFICIALS IN DEPARTMENT
OF NATIONAL DEFENCE (DND) HAD JUMPED TO CONCLUSION THAT GOC
MUST CHANGE ITS SCALE OF DEFENSE PRIORITIES, PUTTING DEFENSE
OF CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY BELOW NATO, WITHOUT WAITING FOR INSTRUCTIONS
FROM CABINET. DND HAD PRACTICALLY WRITTEN OUT AN ORDER
FOR NEW TANKS. HEAD STATED THAT ANY ACTION MUST AWAIT THE CONCLUSION
OF THE DEFENSE STRUCTURE REVIEW WHICH HE ESTIMATED WOULD
BE READY IN TIME FOR A CABINET DECISION BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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